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**Lancaster Church Volunteer Sentenced
for Sexual Conduct with Teen**

A man who volunteered to run youth groups at a Lancaster church was sentenced today to eight years and four months in state prison for directing a teenage boy to perform sexual acts with a teenage family member and then joining in, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Richard Michael Kelso, 35, was convicted by a jury on Nov. 3 of three counts of contact with a minor for sexual offense, two counts of lewd act upon a child and one count of inducing a child to engage in a lewd act.

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Kathleen Blanchard of the Antelope Valley Branch also ordered Kelso to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life and to stay away from the victim for 10 years.

Case MA061894 was prosecuted by Deputy District Attorney Jon Hatami.

Kelso owns a private investigator business in Lancaster and volunteered to run youth groups at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, the prosecutor said. On June and July 2013, the defendant chose a 15-year-old boy from one of his confirmation groups and arranged for him to perform sexual acts with his stepdaughter and then participated in the sex acts, according to testimony at the trial.

The case was investigated by the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department.

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About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](http://da.lacounty.gov) prosecuted more than 71,000 felony defendants and nearly 112,000 misdemeanor defendants.